

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

1700 K STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4037
TDD (916) 445-1942
(916) 322-2285



DATE: November 9, 2001 ACLA Letter No. 01-20

TO: All County Lead Agencies (ACLA)

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE EVALUATION OF THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIME
PREVENTION ACT (SACPA) OF 2000

The purpose of this letter is to invite your county to participate as a focus county in the Statewide Evaluation of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) of 2000 and to inform counties of our plan for selecting focus counties.

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) requires the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) to evaluate the program statewide. The Act specifies annual and long-term (longitudinal) components of a study that shall evaluate the "effectiveness and financial impact of the programs that are funded pursuant to the requirements of this act." The evaluation "shall include, but not be limited to, a study of the implementation process, a review of lower incarceration, cost reductions in crime, reduced prison and jail construction, reduced welfare costs, the adequacy of funds appropriated, and other impacts or issues ADP can identify."

The evaluation is being conducted by UCLA's Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP). The principal investigator for the evaluation is Douglas Longshore. The UCLA research team will examine the implementation process, client outcomes, cost effectiveness of the programs, and impacts on public safety through a series of defined research questions (please see attached).

Certain research questions will be addressed in all counties using existing administrative databases. The UCLA research team plans to work with a small number of "focus" counties to address research questions that require additional data collection from group interviews with criminal justice personnel, treatment providers, and other stakeholders; surveys of SACPA-eligible offenders; and extraction of data from local databases and paper records. The scope and terms of collaboration will be tailored to benefit individual county goals as well as the goals of the statewide evaluation.

We will work with all interested counties on the best strategy for exploring the possibility of participating in the evaluation as a focus county. The typical strategy is a meeting that



DO YOUR PART TO HELP CALIFORNIA SAVE ENERGY
-For energy saving tips, visit the California Home Page at www.ca.gov

would include UCLA research team members, ADP staff, and representatives of the local SACPA implementation team including staff with knowledge of relevant databases and records. We are glad to work with you to develop the list of people to invite to the meeting.

At the meeting, the UCLA team will explain its needs and purposes in more detail. Discussion will focus on what counties wish to gain from participation, what data they can provide or grant access to, and what constraints exist. Below is a list of possible topics for discussion:

- Obtaining consent from SACPA-eligible offenders for possible contact later during the evaluation
- Analyzing automated records
- Accessing, abstracting, and analyzing nonautomated records
- Participation of agency representatives and other stakeholders in focus groups
- Participation of a key agency representative in a focus county coordinators group that will liaison with ADP
- Factors limiting your county's ability to collaborate (we might be able to overcome some of those factors)
- Your county's SACPA monitoring and evaluation needs and how the collaboration can assist in meeting those needs
- Resources needed to make collaboration possible for your county
- How to ensure that the evaluation team is in place to conduct as much of the work as possible (to minimize extra burden on county staff)

The UCLA team will collate the information and create a pool of interested counties and review them with ADP. From this pool, approximately ten focus counties will be identified, which, in combination, best meet these criteria:

- Mix of urban and rural counties
- Broad geographic coverage of the State
- Potential for collecting SACPA-relevant data
- Diversity of implementation strategies

Final selection of approximately ten counties is expected by December 15, 2001. We ask that you begin discussions now with the necessary local entities to determine if your county wishes to participate as a focus county in the statewide SACPA evaluation. We are asking interested counties to submit a preliminary letter of interest by email indicating your desire to participate to ADP by November 15, 2001, to: Susan Nisenbaum, snisenbaum@adp.state.ca.us, (916) 322-2285.

All County Lead Agencies
November 9, 2001
Page 3

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Larry Carr, SACPA Evaluation Coordinator (lcarr@adp.state.ca.us) at (916) 327-8965 or Doug Longshore, P.I., Statewide Evaluation of SACPA (dlongsho@ucla.edu) at (310) 445-0874 extension 231.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed By]

SUSAN NISENBAUM
Deputy Director
Office of Applied Research and Analysis

[Original Signed By]

DOUG LONGSHORE
Principal Investigator
UCLA Integrated Substance
Abuse Programs

[Attachment](#)